

2003 Annual Report to The Governor's Workers' Compensation Advisory Council On The Workers' Compensation System February 14, 2005

Adelita S. Orefice, Director

E. Jean Severance, Associate Director

Matthew P. Carey, Assistant Director

Report Prepared by Laura V. Evans

Introduction

The Division of Workers' Compensation is tasked with collection and analysis of information to gauge the health of the workers' compensation system in Rhode Island. The Division collects a variety of data in order to accomplish this task. A summary of the information collected is presented here. This information was selected to give a broad view of the workers' compensation system for the past eleven years. Additional information is available in greater detail by contacting the Division directly. The Division's web site at http://www.dlt.ri.gov/wc also provides a variety of information. Detailed injury information is available by nature of injury, type of injury, injured body part, and the age and gender of worker on indemnity injuries since 1992 and for non-indemnity injuries from 1998.

Table of Contents

Injury Information

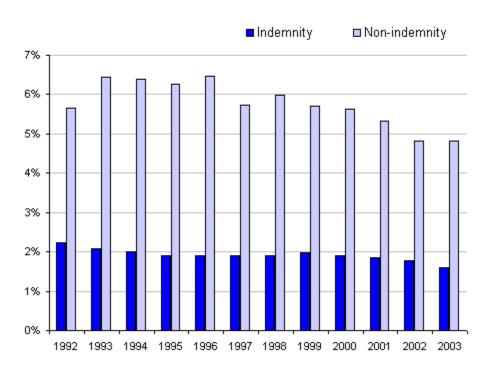
Injuries from 1992 to 2003	1
US and RI Injury Rate Comparison	2
Indemnity Injuries by Insurer Type	3
Distribution of Indemnity Injuries by Employer Sector	4
Rate of Indemnity Injuries by Employment	5
Indemnity Injuries by Age	6
Non-Indemnity Injuries by Age	7
Indemnity Injuries by Gender	8
Non-Indemnity Injuries by Gender	9
Indemnity Injuries by Nature of Injury	10
Non-Indemnity Injuries by Nature of Injury	11
Indemnity Injuries by Body Part	12
Non-Indemnity Injuries Body Part	13
Indemnity Injuries by Injury Type	14
Non-Indemnity Injuries by Injury Type	15
Fatalities	16

Files and Filings	
Files Opened by Level of Agreement or Order to Compensate	17
First Reports and Filings Received Per Calendar Year	18
Workers' Compensation Administrative Fund	
Administrative Fund Information	19
WCAF Total Expenditures	21
Number of Claims Paid	22
Average Paid per Claim	23
Dr. John E. Donley Rehabilitation Center	
Admissions	24
Discharges Returned to Work	25
Discharges Not Returned to Work	26
Estimated Indemnity Savings Report	27
Fraud and Compliance Unit	
Fraud & Compliance Unit Referrals, Inquiries and Filings	28
Fraud & Compliance Unit Penalties and Fees	29

Injuries from 1992 to 2003

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Indemnity Injuries	9,169	8,644	8,335	7,990	8,025	8,189	8,334	8,886	8,691	8,443	8,115	7,379
Non-Indemnity Injuries	23,195	26,640	26,664	26,525	27,363	24,694	26,180	25,436	25,730	24,438	22,091	22,119
Injuries	32,364	35,284	34,999	34,515	35,388	32,883	34,514	34,322	34,421	32,881	30,206	29,498
Covered Employment	409,277	414,046	417,175	422,701	423,693	430,520	437,544	446,422	456,700	458,238	458,212	460,000
Indemnity Rate	2.24%	2.09%	2.00%	1.89%	1.89%	1.90%	1.90%	1.99%	1.90%	1.84%	1.77%	1.60%
Non-Indemnity Rate	5.67%	6.43%	6.39%	6.28%	6.46%	5.74%	5.98%	5.70%	5.63%	5.33%	4.82%	4.81%
Injury Rate	7.91%	8.52%	8.39%	8.17%	8.35%	7.64%	7.89%	7.69%	7.54%	7.18%	6.59%	6.41%

Injury Rate Per Employment



RI worker's compensation is a no-fault system that requires employers to maintain insurance coverage to protect their employees from a work-related loss of earnings and medical expenses. An indemnity injury is a work-related injury or illness for which workers' compensation disability benefits are paid. For a non-indemnity injury, medical benefits may be paid, but workers' compensation disability benefits are not.

The rate of indemnity injuries per employment remained close to 2% between 1994 through 2000. In 2001, the rate started to decline, and in 2003 the injury rate dropped to 1.6%. While the 2003 rate is likely to increase slightly with late reporting, it appears that there was a steady decline in the rate of indemnity injuries in the last 3 years. The rate of non-indemnity injuries has also declined since 1998.

Employers with one or more employee have been required to carry workers' compensation insurance since 1999. Before 1999, insurance was only required of employers with 4 or more employees. The rate of injuries per employment before 1999 is slightly understated because the population covered by workers' compensation for those years was smaller than the employment figures used here.

Employment information was provided by LMI. 2003 Average Covered employment is estimated.

US and RI Injury Rate Comparison

US Bureau of Labor Statistics: Rate of injury & illness, cases per 100 full time workers

RI Division of Workers' Compensation: Rate of injury & illness, cases per 100 covered employees

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
US BLS: Cases involving days away from work	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.1	2	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.5
RI: Indemnity injuries & illnesses	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.6
US BLS: Total recordable cases	8.5	8.4	8.1	7.4	7.1	6.7	6.3	6.1	5.7	5.3	5.0
OS BLS. Total recordable cases	0.5	0.4	0.1	7.4	7.1	0.7	0.5	0.1	5.7	5.5	5.0
RI: Total injuries & illnesses	8.5	8.4	8.2	8.4	7.6	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.2	6.6	6.4





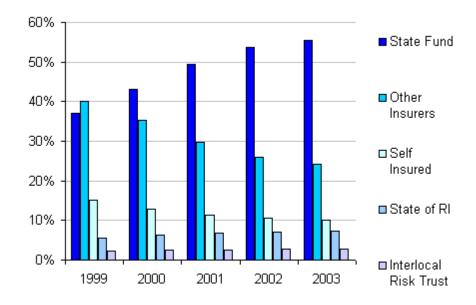
These figures compare rate of workers' compensation injuries to the rate of injuries and illnesses reported to US Bureau of Labor Statistics. It is important to note that the criteria used in reporting and developing the rates for BLS are not the same as for RI injuries. In RI, injuries are not due indemnity until more than three days are lost from work.

There is a similar trend in the rates of BLS cases involving days away from work and the rate of RI indemnity injuries. Overall, both rates have declined since 1993. The BLS rate has declined more sharply than the RI indemnity injury rate.

The total rate of injury for US BL and RI also show an overall decline from 1993 to 2003. Again, the decline in BLS injuries is steeper.

Indemnity Injuries by Insurer Type

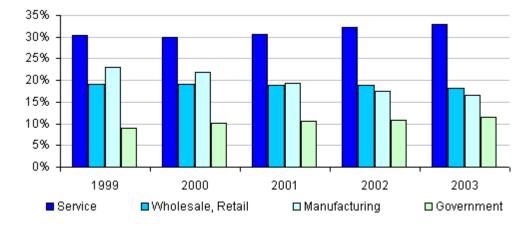
Indemnity	State	e Fund	Solf I	nsured	State	e of RI	cal Risk rust	Other	Insurers	Total	
<u>Injuries</u>	State	Fruitu	Sell I	risureu	State	e OI KI		นรเ	Other	IIISUIEIS	TOlai
1993	2,254	25.49%	2,674	30.25%	669	7.57%	133	1.50%	3,111	35.19%	8,841
1994	3,860	44.48%	2,553	29.42%	592	6.82%	137	1.58%	1,536	17.70%	8,678
1995	3,256	39.90%	2,155	26.41%	516	6.32%	122	1.50%	2,111	25.87%	8,160
1996	2,808	34.38%	1,967	24.08%	500	6.12%	136	1.67%	2,757	33.75%	8,168
1997	2,491	29.85%	1,735	20.79%	484	5.80%	155	1.86%	3,481	41.71%	8,346
1998	2,675	31.53%	1,439	16.96%	499	5.88%	221	2.60%	3,651	43.03%	8,485
1999	3,342	37.01%	1,355	15.01%	509	5.64%	212	2.35%	3,611	39.99%	9,029
2000	3,805	43.21%	1,121	12.73%	563	6.39%	215	2.44%	3,101	35.22%	8,805
2001	4,255	49.48%	977	11.36%	581	6.76%	219	2.55%	2,567	29.85%	8,599
2002	4,054	53.67%	803	10.63%	540	7.15%	202	2.67%	1,955	25.88%	7,554
2003	4,096	55.51%	748	10.14%	539	7.30%	203	2.75%	1,793	24.30%	7,379



The distribution of indemnity injuries among the different types of insurers has changed dramatically since 1992. The state fund, Beacon Mutual Insurance Company, has insured between 25% and 56% of indemnity injuries since its first full year of business in 1993. The percent of injuries to self-insured employers has been dropping steadily from a high of 32% in 1992 to 10.1% in 2003 as self-insured employers find other means of insurance. The RI state employees share of injuries dropped from a high of 7.8% in 1992 to a low of 5.8% in 1998, but has increased to 7.3% in 2003. The Interlocal Risk Trust has seen an increase in the percent of injuries insured, climbing to 2.75% in 2003. Other insurers' (mostly private insurers) percent of injuries declined dramatically to a low of 18% in 1994 during the period where WC insurers were leaving the RI market. Their share increased to 43% in 1998, but has since declined to 24% in 2003 as Beacon Mutual's share increased.

Distribution of Indemnity Injuries by Employer Sector

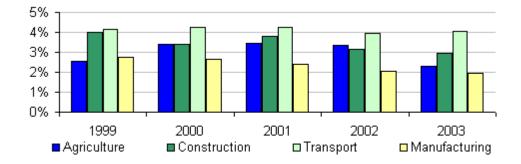
Indemnity Injuries	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Agriculture, Fishing, Forestry	60	47	52	72	64	69	85	118	124	124	87
Mining	3	8	14	13	7	12	11	9	3	7	8
Construction	404	466	442	408	456	505	709	626	708	598	602
Manufacturing	2,319	2,187	2,144	2,003	2,031	2,210	2,071	1,932	1,665	1,324	1,222
Transportation & Public Utilities	599	640	545	614	674	564	662	703	712	642	652
Wholesale & Retail Trade	1,667	1,633	1,595	1,598	1,543	1,538	1,733	1,691	1,632	1,419	1,348
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	214	208	139	184	211	189	198	201	196	182	170
Service Industry	2,696	2,667	2,518	2,562	2,636	2,608	2,748	2,635	2,643	2,437	2,432
Government & Other	879	822	711	714	724	790	812	890	916	821	858
Total	8,841	8,678	8,160	8,168	8,346	8,485	9,029	8,805	8,599	7,554	7,379
Distribution by Sector	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Service Industry	30.5%	30.7%	30.9%	31.4%	31.6%	30.7%	30.4%	29.9%	30.7%	32.3%	33.0%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	18.9%	18.8%	19.5%	19.6%	18.5%	18.1%	19.2%	19.2%	19.0%	18.8%	18.3%
Manufacturing	26.2%	25.2%	26.3%	24.5%	24.3%	26.0%	22.9%	21.9%	19.4%	17.5%	16.6%
Government & Other	9.9%	9.5%	8.7%	8.7%	8.7%	9.3%	9.0%	10.1%	10.7%	10.9%	11.6%
Transportation & Public Utilities	6.8%	7.4%	6.7%	7.5%	8.1%	6.6%	7.3%	8.0%	8.3%	8.5%	8.8%
Construction	4.6%	5.4%	5.4%	5.0%	5.5%	6.0%	7.9%	7.1%	8.2%	7.9%	8.2%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	2.4%	2.4%	1.7%	2.3%	2.5%	2.2%	2.2%	2.3%	2.3%	2.4%	2.3%
Agriculture, Fishing, Forestry	0.7%	0.5%	0.6%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	1.3%	1.4%	1.6%	1.2%
Mining	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%



About 30% of indemnity injuries occur in the service sector. While 25% of indemnity injuries occurred in the manufacturing sector in 1993, that percent has declined to 16.6% in 2003, following the drop in manufacturing employment. Indemnity injuries in the wholesale & retail and government sectors have remained stable. Transportation, communication and public utilities sector shows a fluctuating percent of injuries, with a low of 6.6 % in 1998 and a high of 8.8% in 2003. The construction sector shows a steady increase in the percent of indemnity from 4% in 1992 to 8.2% in 2003.

Rate of Indemnity Injuries per Employment

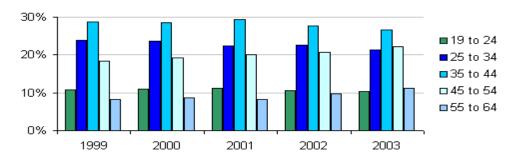
Covered Employment *	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	2,514	2,587	2,743	2,923	2,971	3,117	3,326	3,481	3,599	3,702	3,811
Mining	174	182	169	162	181	193	226	223	231	223	189
Construction	12,538	13,123	13,349	13,873	14,524	15,718	17,666	18,340	18,548	18,966	20,524
Manufacturing	88,022	87,295	84,885	81,847	79,661	78,352	74,969	72,679	69,896	64,796	62,298
Transportation, Comm, Pub Util	14,079	14,608	14,480	14,765	15,129	15,653	15,947	16,447	16,741	16,158	16,129
Wholesale & Retail Trade	93,097	94,746	97,713	96,839	98,503	98,898	104,099	109,217	107,517	109,380	109,587
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	24,230	24,237	23,591	23,910	25,090	27,114	27,926	28,995	30,731	31,753	31,853
Services	128,523	130,496	136,093	139,353	143,208	147,314	150,113	153,616	155,455	156,847	158,721
State & Local Government	49,334	48,873	48,738	49,009	49,685	49,753	50,751	51,980	53,268	56,387	56,888
Total	414,046	417,175	422,701	423,693	430,520	437,544	446,422	456,700	458,238	458,212	460,000
Injury Rate per Employment	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	2.39%	1.82%	1.90%	2.46%	2.15%	2.21%	2.56%	3.39%	3.45%	3.35%	2.28%
Mining	1.72%	4.40%	8.28%	8.02%	3.87%	6.22%	4.87%	4.04%	1.30%	3.14%	4.23%
Construction	3.22%	3.55%	3.31%	2.94%	3.14%	3.21%	4.01%	3.41%	3.82%	3.15%	2.93%
Manufacturing	2.63%	2.51%	2.53%	2.45%	2.55%	2.82%	2.76%	2.66%	2.38%	2.04%	1.96%
Transportation, Comm, Pub Util	4.25%	4.38%	3.76%	4.16%	4.46%	3.60%	4.15%	4.27%	4.25%	3.97%	4.04%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	1.79%	1.72%	1.63%	1.65%	1.57%	1.56%	1.66%	1.55%	1.52%	1.30%	1.23%
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	0.88%	0.86%	0.59%	0.77%	0.84%	0.70%	0.71%	0.69%	0.64%	0.57%	0.53%
Services	2.10%	2.04%	1.85%	1.84%	1.84%	1.77%	1.83%	1.72%	1.70%	1.55%	1.53%
Government & Other	1.78%	1.68%	1.46%	1.46%	1.46%	1.59%	1.60%	1.71%	1.72%	1.46%	1.51%
Total	2.14%	2.08%	1.93%	1.93%	1.94%	1.94%	2.02%	1.93%	1.88%	1.65%	1.60%



The sector of employment with the highest rate of injury per employment is transportation, communication, & public utilities. The injury rate for construction peaked at 4% in 1999 and dropped to 2.9% in 20032. The irregular rates for mining are not significant because of the very low numbers in that category. The total rate of indemnity injuries per employment was steady at about 2%, but it declined to 1.6% for 2003.

Indemnity Injuries by Age of Injured Worker

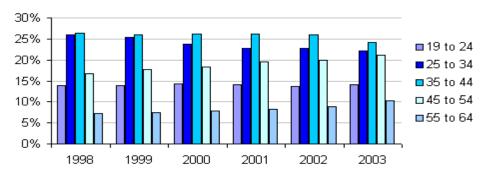
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Under 16	3	12	4	4	9	9	19	15	7	4	6
16 to 18	176	167	165	148	172	176	219	187	183	143	113
19 to 24	1,127	1,012	933	927	905	959	968	961	960	791	769
25 to 34	2,442	2,310	2,174	2,093	2,126	2,083	2,160	2,075	1,933	1,704	1576
35 to 44	1,953	2,156	2,072	2,039	2,247	2,407	2,598	2,502	2,529	2,087	1961
45 to 54	1,276	1,318	1,249	1,395	1,454	1,555	1,652	1,687	1,734	1,566	1630
55 to 64	657	672	645	620	654	650	747	763	706	730	827
65 and over	110	115	117	118	142	121	131	124	148	114	124
Not reported	1,097	916	801	824	637	525	535	491	399	415	373
Total	8,841	8,678	8,160	8,168	8,346	8,485	9,029	8,805	8,599	7,554	7379
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Under 16	0.03%	0.14%	0.05%	0.05%	0.11%	0.11%	0.21%	0.17%	0.08%	0.05%	0.08%
16 to 18	1.99%	1.92%	2.02%	1.81%	2.06%	2.07%	2.43%	2.12%	2.13%	1.89%	1.53%
19 to 24	12.75%	11.66%	11.43%	11.35%	10.84%	11.30%	10.72%	10.91%	11.16%	10.47%	10.42%
25 to 34	27.62%	26.62%	26.64%	25.62%	25.47%	24.55%	23.92%	23.57%	22.48%	22.56%	21.36%
35 to 44	22.09%	24.84%	25.39%	24.96%	26.92%	28.37%	28.77%	28.42%	29.41%	27.63%	26.58%
45 to 54	14.43%	15.19%	15.31%	17.08%	17.42%	18.33%	18.30%	19.16%	20.17%	20.73%	22.09%
55 to 64	7.43%	7.74%	7.90%	7.59%	7.84%	7.66%	8.27%	8.67%	8.21%	9.66%	11.21%
65 and over	1.24%	1.33%	1.43%	1.44%	1.70%	1.43%	1.45%	1.41%	1.72%	1.51%	1.68%
Not reported	12.41%	10.56%	9.82%	10.09%	7.63%	6.19%	5.93%	5.58%	4.64%	5.49%	5.05%



Indemnity injuries occur to workers in the 35 to 44 year old age category most often, possibly because of the age distribution of the work force. Injuries to workers in the 45 to 54 year old age category are the next most frequent, and they have increased steadily from 14% in 1993 to 22% in 2003. The slight decline in injuries to workers in the 19 to 24 year old and 25 to 34 year old ranges may also be due to the shift in age distribution of the work force.

Non-Indemnity Injuries by Age of Injured Worker

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Under 16	46	64	48	49	46	33
16 to 18	907	863	888	751	593	579
19 to 24	3,640	3,510	3,635	3,429	3,038	3,133
25 to 34	6,778	6,424	6,084	5,507	5,042	4,919
35 to 44	6,852	6,558	6,720	6,316	5,736	5,332
45 to 54	4,358	4,499	4,707	4,723	4,406	4,664
55 to 64	1,872	1,886	2,004	2,021	1,977	2,272
65 and over	266	301	350	337	296	321
Not reported	1,309	1,180	1,158	1,056	936	866
Total	26,028	25,285	25,594	24,189	22,070	22,119
<u>-</u> _	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Under 16	0.18%	0.25%	0.19%	0.20%	0.21%	0.15%
16 to 18	3.48%	3.41%	3.47%	3.10%	2.69%	2.62%
19 to 24	13.98%	13.88%	14.20%	14.18%	13.77%	14.16%
25 to 34	26.04%	25.41%	23.77%	22.77%	22.85%	22.24%
35 to 44	26.33%	25.94%	26.26%	26.11%	25.99%	24.11%
45 to 54	16.74%	17.79%	18.39%	19.53%	19.96%	21.09%
55 to 64	7.19%	7.46%	7.83%	8.36%	8.96%	10.27%
65 and over	1.02%	1.19%	1.37%	1.39%	1.34%	1.45%
Not reported	5.03%	4.67%	4.52%	4.37%	4.24%	3.92%



Non-indemnity juries occur to workers in the 35 to 44 year old age category most often, possibly because of the age distribution of the work force. Injuries to workers in the 25 to 34 year old age category are almost as frequent. The increase over time of non-indemnity injuries to workers in the 45 to 54 and 55 to 64 year ranges is probably a reflection of the aging work force.

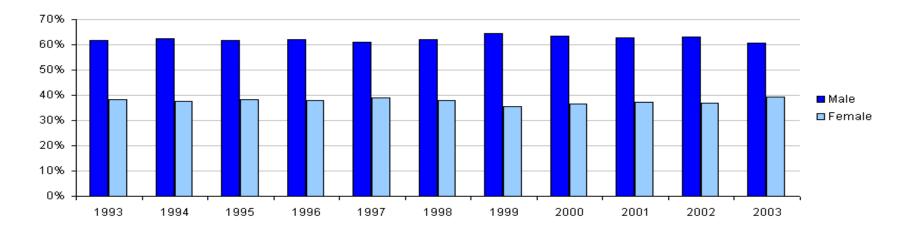
Indemnity Injuries by Gender of Injured Worker

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Male	4,990	4,921	4,567	4,456	4,444	4,876	5,413	5,336	5,318	4,691	4242
Female	3,105	2,973	2,843	2,743	2,826	2,976	2,996	3,073	3,138	2,743	2766
Not reported	746	784	750	969	1,076	633	620	396	143	120	371
Total	8,841	8,678	8,160	8,168	8,346	8,485	9,029	8,805	8,599	7,554	7,379
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Male (percent of reported) Female (percent of	61.64%	62.34%	61.63%	61.90%	61.13%	62.10%	64.37%	63.46%	62.89%	63.10%	60.53%
reported)	38.36%	37.66%	38.37%	38.10%	38.87%	37.90%	35.63%	36.54%	37.11%	36.90%	39.47%

BLS Occupational Injuries & Illnesses with Days away from Work 2002

Male 65.03%
Female 34.97%

From 1993 to 2003, an average of 62% of indemnity injuries occurred to males and an average of 38% of indemnity injuries occurred to females where gender was reported. Distribution of injuries by gender has remained fairly stable, with a peak of injuries to males of 64% in 1999. In 2003, injuries to males dropped to 61%.



Non-Indemnity Injuries by Gender of Injured Worker

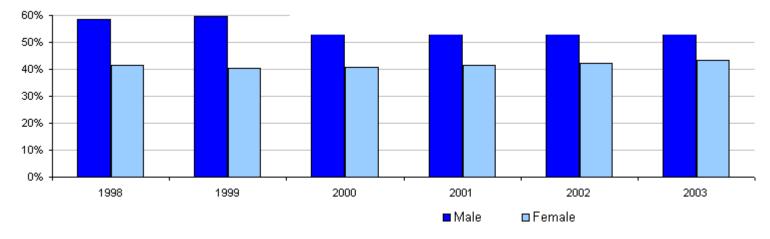
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Male	14,272	14,333	14,621	13,909	12,675	12,027
Female	10,136	9,642	10,116	9,897	9,201	9,222
Gender not reported	1,620	1,310	857	383	194	870
Total	26,028	25,285	25,594	24,189	22,070	22,119
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Male (percent of reported)	58.47%	59.78%	59.11%	58.43%	57.94%	56.60%
Female (percent of reported)	41.53%	40.22%	40.89%	41.57%	42.06%	43.40%

2003 Employment, age 16
years and over (BLS)

Male

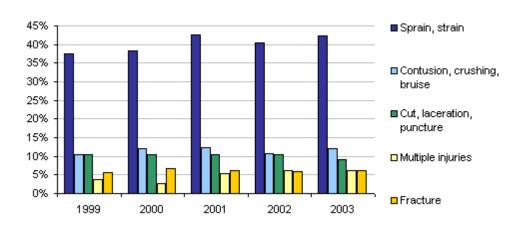
53.24%

Over a 6 year span from 1998 to 2002, an average of 58.4% of non-indemnity injuries occurred to males and an average of 43.4% of non-indemnity injuries occurred to females. The proportion of injuries to males was highest in 1999, with a distribution of 59.11% to males and 40.89% to females. The distribution for 2003 shows 43.4% of injuries to females and 56.6% to males. This is close to the 2003 distribution of employed persons over 16 years for the US according to BLS figures.



Indemnity Injuries by Nature of Injury

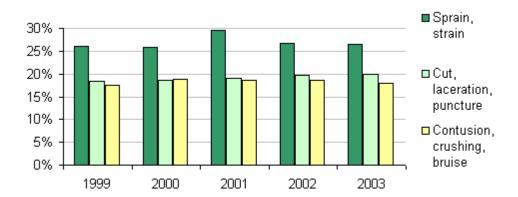
_	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sprain, strain	3,088	2,789	2,776	2,992	2,977	3,543	3,376	3,364	3,663	3,056	3,132
Contusion, crushing, bruise	915	1,102	941	851	849	999	936	1,056	1,061	802	888
Cut, laceration, puncture	680	660	710	738	768	862	946	926	898	786	674
Multiple injuries	402	451	437	372	388	365	344	247	458	475	455
Fracture	478	565	503	458	479	500	512	582	522	444	445
Inflammation, irritation	1,256	1,194	1,228	1,015	923	618	652	1,093	304	212	218
Burn from heat	111	130	121	138	136	213	214	217	199	154	128
Other	1,911	1,787	1,444	1,604	1,826	1,385	2,049	1,320	1,494	1,625	1,439
Total	8,841	8,678	8,160	8,168	8,346	8,485	9,029	8,805	8,599	7,554	7,379
_											
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sprain, strain	34.9%	32.1%	34.0%	36.6%	35.7%	41.8%	37.4%	38.2%	42.6%	40.5%	42.4%
Contusion, crushing, bruise	10.3%	12.7%	11.5%	10.4%	10.2%	11.8%	10.4%	12.0%	12.3%	10.6%	12.0%
Cut, laceration, puncture	7.7%	7.6%	8.7%	9.0%	9.2%	10.2%	10.5%	10.5%	10.4%	10.4%	9.1%
Multiple injuries	4.5%	5.2%	5.4%	4.6%	4.6%	4.3%	3.8%	2.8%	5.3%	6.3%	6.2%
Fracture	5.4%	6.5%	6.2%	5.6%	5.7%	5.9%	5.7%	6.6%	6.1%	5.9%	6.0%
Inflammation, irritation	14.2%	13.8%	15.0%	12.4%	11.1%	7.3%	7.2%	12.4%	3.5%	2.8%	3.0%
Burn from heat	1.3%	1.5%	1.5%	1.7%	1.6%	2.5%	2.4%	2.5%	2.3%	2.0%	1.7%
Other	21.6%	20.6%	17.7%	19.6%	21.9%	16.3%	22.7%	15.0%	17.4%	21.5%	19.5%



Sprains and strains are by far the most frequently occurring nature of injury for indemnity injuries. The percent of injuries with sprain or strain injuries averages about 40% for the last 5 years. The next most frequently occurring indemnity injuries are contusion, crushing and bruise injuries, with an average of 11.5% over the last 5 years. Cut, laceration and puncture injuries are nearly as frequent with an average of 10.2%. Multiple nature of injuries has a fluctuating frequency, as does inflammation or irritation of joints and muscles. This variation may be attributable to the way these are reported. Fractures remain steady, with an average of 6.1% from 1999 to 2003.

Non-Indemnity Injuries by Nature of Injury

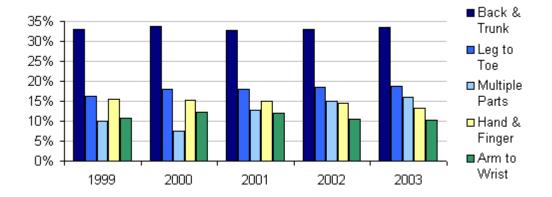
Nature of Injury	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sprain, strain	6,750	6,590	6,628	7,169	5,883	5,844
Cut, laceration, puncture	4,923	4,668	4,761	4,586	4,355	4,386
Contusion, crushing, bruise	4,678	4,416	4,812	4,507	4,121	3,980
Multiple injuries	606	500	451	760	764	926
Eye: disease, particle	1,132	1,082	1,037	1,028	881	789
Exposed to germs	532	602	652	659	589	658
Burn from heat	708	642	674	616	551	561
Other	6,699	6,785	6,579	4,864	4,926	4,975
Total	26,028	25,285	25,594	24,189	22,070	22,119
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sprain, strain	25.9%	26.1%	25.9%	29.6%	26.7%	26.4%
Cut, laceration, puncture	18.9%	18.5%	18.6%	19.0%	19.7%	19.8%
Contusion, crushing, bruise	18.0%	17.5%	18.8%	18.6%	18.7%	18.0%
Multiple injuries	2.3%	2.0%	1.8%	3.1%	3.5%	4.2%
Eye: disease, particle	4.3%	4.3%	4.1%	4.2%	4.0%	3.6%
Exposed to germs	2.0%	2.4%	2.5%	2.7%	2.7%	3.0%
Burn from heat	2.7%	2.5%	2.6%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Other	25.7%	26.8%	25.7%	20.1%	22.3%	22.5%



Sprains and strains are the most frequently occurring non-indemnity injury. An average of about 27% of non-indemnity injuries from 1999 to 2003 are sprains or strains. The next most frequent non-indemnity injuries are cut, laceration and puncture injuries, followed very closely by contusion, crushing, and bruise injuries. An average of 19% of non-indemnity injuries between 1999 and 2003 were cut, laceration or puncture. Contusion, crushing and bruise injuries averaged just over 18% for the same period.

Indemnity Injuries by Injured Body Part

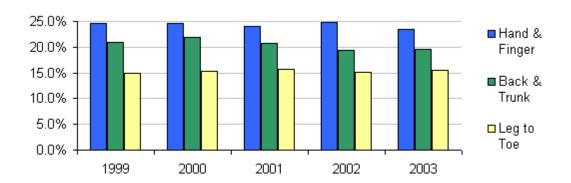
_	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Back & Trunk	3,036	2,898	2,664	2,585	2,608	2,892	2,981	2,977	2,818	2,496	2,481
Leg to Toe	1,404	1,317	1,292	1,180	1,280	1,335	1,471	1,579	1,549	1,406	1,392
Multiple Parts	1,035	1,096	972	948	839	826	912	652	1,100	1,124	1,179
Hand & Finger	1,188	1,159	1,189	1,164	1,176	1,278	1,389	1,334	1,295	1,102	978
Arm to Wrist	830	834	792	833	868	972	979	1,080	1,032	802	749
Head, all parts	244	274	234	232	250	297	318	374	324	259	286
Neck	195	157	151	128	139	178	227	296	218	126	116
Other	163	159	116	129	110	74	132	117	120	119	147
No Statistics	746	784	750	969	1,076	633	620	396	143	120	51
Total	8,841	8,678	8,160	8,168	8,346	8,485	9,029	8,805	8,599	7,554	7,379
_	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Back & Trunk	34.3%	33.4%	32.6%	31.6%	31.2%	34.1%	33.0%	33.8%	32.8%	33.0%	33.6%
Leg to Toe	15.9%	15.2%	15.8%	14.4%	15.3%	15.7%	16.3%	17.9%	18.0%	18.6%	18.9%
Multiple Parts	11.7%	12.6%	11.9%	11.6%	10.1%	9.7%	10.1%	7.4%	12.8%	14.9%	16.0%
Hand & Finger	13.4%	13.4%	14.6%	14.3%	14.1%	15.1%	15.4%	15.2%	15.1%	14.6%	13.3%
Arm to Wrist	9.4%	9.6%	9.7%	10.2%	10.4%	11.5%	10.8%	12.3%	12.0%	10.6%	10.2%
Head, all parts	2.8%	3.2%	2.9%	2.8%	3.0%	3.5%	3.5%	4.2%	3.8%	3.4%	3.9%
Neck	2.2%	1.8%	1.9%	1.6%	1.7%	2.1%	2.5%	3.4%	2.5%	1.7%	1.6%
Other	1.8%	1.8%	1.4%	1.6%	1.3%	0.9%	1.5%	1.3%	1.4%	1.6%	2.0%
No Statistics	8.4%	9.0%	9.2%	11.9%	12.9%	7.5%	6.9%	4.5%	1.7%	1.6%	0.7%



From 1999 to 2003, an average of about 33% of indemnity injuries occurred to the back and trunk. Other body parts have a much lower frequency of injury. Injuries to the leg, including the foot and toes made up an average of nearly 18% of indemnity injuries for the same time frame. Injuries to multiple body parts averaged about 12% of injuries in the last 5 years. For the same time period, injuries to hand and fingers were about 15% of injuries, and from arm to wrist made up an average of 11% of indemnity injuries.

Non-Indemnity Injuries by Injured Body Part

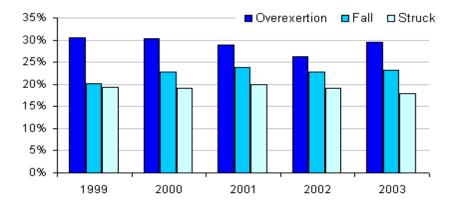
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hand & Finger	6,593	6,220	6,285	5,806	5,482	5,179
Back & Trunk	5,203	5,282	5,596	5,014	4,291	4,331
Leg to Toe	3,667	3,782	3,937	3,809	3,334	3,437
Head, all parts	3,242	3,241	3,309	3,112	2,945	2,786
Arm to Wrist	2,828	2,811	2,923	2,923	2,591	2,627
Multiple Parts	1,829	1,459	1,412	2,040	2,272	2,607
Neck	449	517	655	471	343	311
Other	597	663	620	631	618	813
No Statistics	1,620	1,310	857	383	194	28
Total	26,028	25,285	25,594	24,189	22,070	22,119
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hand & Finger	25.3%	24.6%	24.6%	24.0%	24.8%	23.4%
Back & Trunk	20.0%	20.9%	21.9%	20.7%	19.4%	19.6%
Leg to Toe	14.1%	15.0%	15.4%	15.7%	15.1%	15.5%
Head, all parts	12.5%	12.8%	12.9%	12.9%	13.3%	12.6%
Arm to Wrist	10.9%	11.1%	11.4%	12.1%	11.7%	11.9%
Multiple Parts	7.0%	5.8%	5.5%	8.4%	10.3%	11.8%
Neck	1.7%	2.0%	2.6%	1.9%	1.6%	1.4%
Other	2.3%	2.6%	2.4%	2.6%	2.8%	3.7%
No Statistics	6.2%	5.2%	3.3%	1.6%	0.9%	0.1%



Injuries to the hand and fingers occur most frequently, accounting for an average of 24.3% of non-indemnity injuries from 1999 to 2003. Injuries to the back and trunk area are the next most frequent, averaging 20.5% of non-indemnity injuries for that period. Injuries from leg to toe averaged 15.3% of non-indemnity injuries.

Indemnity Injuries by Type of Injury

<u>-</u>	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Overexertion	2,886	2,564	2,506	2,390	2,474	2,536	2,749	2,666	2,486	1,982	2,183
Fall	1,662	1,849	1,511	1,488	1,487	1,609	1,812	1,998	2,049	1,716	1,717
Struck	1,499	1,403	1,392	1,369	1,405	1,535	1,739	1,681	1,708	1,446	1,322
Bodily reaction	555	549	561	509	411	580	488	470	619	829	573
Caught in, under, between	513	597	527	532	546	556	511	488	433	393	301
Motor vehicle accident	214	233	211	227	241	273	278	279	315	268	263
Other	766	699	702	684	706	763	832	827	846	800	969
No statistics on file	746	784	750	969	1,076	633	620	396	143	120	51
Total	8,841	8,678	8,160	8,168	8,346	8,485	9,029	8,805	8,599	7,554	7,379
<u>-</u>	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Overexertion	32.6%	29.5%	30.7%	29.3%	29.6%	29.9%	30.4%	30.3%	28.9%	26.2%	29.6%
Fall	18.8%	21.3%	18.5%	18.2%	17.8%	19.0%	20.1%	22.7%	23.8%	22.7%	23.3%
Struck	17.0%	16.2%	17.1%	16.8%	16.8%	18.1%	19.3%	19.1%	19.9%	19.1%	17.9%
Bodily reaction	6.3%	6.3%	6.9%	6.2%	4.9%	6.8%	5.4%	5.3%	7.2%	11.0%	7.8%
Caught in, under, between	5.8%	6.9%	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%	6.6%	5.7%	5.5%	5.0%	5.2%	4.1%
Motor vehicle accident	2.4%	2.7%	2.6%	2.8%	2.9%	3.2%	3.1%	3.2%	3.7%	3.5%	3.6%
Other	8.7%	8.1%	8.6%	8.4%	8.5%	9.0%	9.2%	9.4%	9.8%	10.6%	13.1%
No statistics on file	8.4%	9.0%	9.2%	11.9%	12.9%	7.5%	6.9%	4.5%	1.7%	1.6%	0.7%



Overexertion is the most frequently occurring type of injury. From 1999 to 2003, overexertion accounted for an average of 29.1% of indemnity injuries.

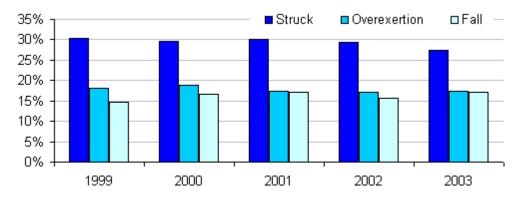
The second most frequent indemnity injury type is a fall. For the last 5 years, an average of 22.55% of indemnity injuries was falls.

Injuries where the worker was struck against or by an object are the next most frequent, averaging 19.1% from 1999 to 2003.

The frequency of bodily reaction injuries increased sharply in 2002. This may be due to inconsistent coding.

Non-Indemnity Injuries by Type of Injury

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Struck	8,003	7,669	7,606	7,254	6,495	6,080
Overexertion	4,508	4,600	4,797	4,195	3,785	3,841
Fall	3,571	3,738	4,263	4,164	3,473	3,813
Bodily reaction	1,055	1,000	799	1,355	1,436	1,173
Caught in, under, between	1,670	1,565	1,578	1,282	1,132	919
Particle in eye	1,093	1,113	1,159	1,113	959	836
Other	4,508	4,233	4,486	4,386	3,918	5,429
No statistics on file	1,620	1,310	857	383	194	28
Total	26,028	25,285	25,594	24,189	22,070	22,119
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Struck	30.75%	30.33%	29.72%	29.99%	29.43%	27.49%
Overexertion	17.32%	18.19%	18.74%	17.34%	17.15%	17.37%
Fall	13.72%	14.78%	16.66%	17.21%	15.74%	17.24%
Bodily reaction	4.05%	3.95%	3.12%	5.60%	6.51%	5.30%
Caught in, under, between	6.42%	6.19%	6.17%	5.30%	5.13%	4.15%
Particle in eye	4.20%	4.40%	4.53%	4.60%	4.35%	3.78%
Other	17.32%	16.97%	17.72%	18.37%	20.82%	24.54%
No statistics on file	6.22%	5.18%	3.35%	1.58%	0.88%	0.13%



Injuries where the worker was struck against or by an object are the most frequent, averaging 29.4% from 1999 to 2003.

Overexertion is the next most frequently occurring type of injury. In 2003, 17.3% of non-indemnity injuries were classified as overexertion.

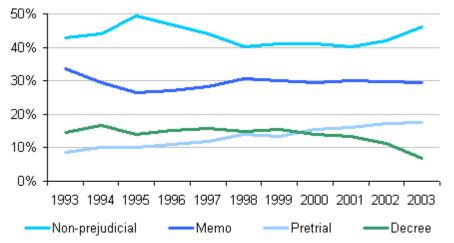
Falls are the third most frequent type of nonindemnity injury. Igor the last 5 years, an average of 16.3% of non-indemnity injuries were from falls.

Workers' Compensation Fatalities

Compensable Fatalities		1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Female	Compensable Fatalities	11	6	4	7	7	5	7	7	3	5	6	12
Female	Gender												
Male		2	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	2
County Kent													
Kent	Wate					- 0		<u> </u>					10
Newport 0	County												
Providence 9 3 2 3 1 3 4 4 0 2 3 4 Washington 1 0 0 0 3 1 2 2 0 0 0 0 Out of State 0 3 1 1 2 0 <td< td=""><td>Kent</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>6</td></td<>	Kent	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	6
Washington 1 0 0 0 3 1 2 2 0 0 0 0 Out of State 0 3 1 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0	Newport	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Accident Type	Providence	9	3	2	3	1	3	4	4	0	2	3	4
Accident Type Aircraft accident 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 Assaulted or shot 2 0 0 0 2 0 0 1 0 0 2 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 Crushed 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Washington	1	0	0	0	3	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Aircraft accident 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 Assaulted or shot 2 0 0 2 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 Crushed 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 0 0 3 Drowned or asphyxiated 1 1 0 1 1 0	Out of State	0	3	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	2	2
Aircraft accident 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 Assaulted or shot 2 0 0 2 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 Crushed 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 0 0 3 Drowned or asphyxiated 1 1 0 1 1 0	A :1 1 T												
Assaulted or shot 2 0 0 2 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 Crushed 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0													
Crushed 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 0 0 3 Drowned or asphyxiated 1 1 1 0 1 1 0		_						0	•		1	0	_
Drowned or asphyxiated		2		-			-	1	-		1	1	
Electrocuted 2 0 1 0 0 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 0 Fell from elevation 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		1	0	•	•	-	-	•	•		-		
Fell from elevation 1 1 0 1 0		1	1	0	•	•	•	•	•	_	0	•	•
Fire 0		2	0	1	-	-	-	-	2		1	-	0
Heart attack or stroke		1	1	•	•	-		-	1			-	1
Industrial vehicle accident		0	-	0	_	_	-	0	0	_	_	0	_
Motor vehicle accident 3 3 2 0 3 0 4 2 1 2 4 2 Struck by falling/flying object 0 0 0 0 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 Type not reported 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 Employer Type Construction 3 0 2 1 3 1 0 2 3 1 0 3 0 2 1 3 1 0 2 3 1 0 3 0 2 3 1 0 3 0 2 1 3 0 2 3 1 0 3 0 2 3 1 0 3 1 1 0 0 2 1 3 0 0 2 3 1 1 0		0		1				1	0	0		1	
Struck by falling/flying object 0 0 0 0 1 2 0 0 0 0 0 Type not reported Employer Type Construction 3 0 2 1 3 1 0 2 3 1 0 3 Manufacturing 2 0 0 0 0 2 1 3 0 2 3 1 Transport & Public Utilities 1 1 0 2 1 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 Wholesale & Retail 0 1 1 0 0 1 3 0		0		-	0	_	2	0	0	0		0	
Type not reported 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 Employer Type Construction 3 0 2 1 3 1 0 2 3 1 0 3 Manufacturing 2 0 0 0 0 2 1 3 0 2 3 1 Transport & Public Utilities 1 1 0 2 1 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 Wholesale & Retail 0 1 1 0 0 1 3 0 0 0 1 7 Finance, Insurance, Real Estate 0 <t< td=""><td>Motor vehicle accident</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></t<>	Motor vehicle accident	3	3	2	0	3	0	4	2	1	2	4	2
Employer Type Construction 3 0 2 1 3 1 0 2 3 1 0 3 Manufacturing 2 0 0 0 0 0 2 1 3 0 2 3 1 Transport & Public Utilities 1 1 0 0 2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Struck by falling/flying object	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction 3 0 2 1 3 1 0 2 3 1 0 3 Manufacturing 2 0 0 0 0 2 1 3 0 2 3 1 Transport & Public Utilities 1 1 0 2 1 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 Wholesale & Retail 0 1 1 0 0 1 3 0 0 0 1 7 Finance, Insurance, Real Estate 0 0 0 0 0 1 0	Type not reported	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Construction 3 0 2 1 3 1 0 2 3 1 0 3 Manufacturing 2 0 0 0 0 2 1 3 0 2 3 1 Transport & Public Utilities 1 1 0 2 1 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 Wholesale & Retail 0 1 1 0 0 1 3 0 0 0 1 7 Finance, Insurance, Real Estate 0 0 0 0 0 1 0	Employer Type												
Manufacturing 2 0 0 0 0 2 1 3 0 2 3 1 Transport & Public Utilities 1 1 0 2 1 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 Wholesale & Retail 0 1 1 0 0 1 3 0 0 0 1 7 Finance, Insurance, Real Estate 0 0 0 0 0 1 0<		3	0	2	1	3	1	n	2	3	1	n	3
Transport & Public Utilities 1 1 0 2 1 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 Wholesale & Retail 0 1 1 0 0 1 3 0 0 0 1 7 Finance, Insurance, Real Estate 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 Services 5 4 1 4 3 1 2 0 0 1 1 1							=				=		1
Wholesale & Retail 0 1 1 0 0 1 3 0 0 0 1 7 Finance, Insurance, Real Estate 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 Services 5 4 1 4 3 1 2 0 0 1 1 1	<u> </u>	1	1	•	_	-		•		_		-	0
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 Services 5 4 1 4 3 1 2 0 0 1 1 1	•	'n	1	1		•	1	_		-	•	1	7
Services 5 4 1 4 3 1 2 0 0 1 1 1 1		J	0	0	_	-	0		-	-	•	0	0
		•	•	1	-	_	1	•	-	•	1	1	1
	Government	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Files Opened by Level of Agreement or Order to Compensate

Files Opened	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Number of injury files opened	11,932	12,817	11,716	11,312	12,120	33,914	34,470	34,036	33,467	30,977	30,522
With no agreement	2,905	3,663	3,383	3,045	3,678	25,125	25,554	25,387	24,718	22,708	22,234
Under nonprejudicial agreement	3,874	4,022	4,116	3,872	3,716	3,539	3,672	3,555	3,517	3,458	3,818
Under memorandum of agreement	3,045	2,705	2,207	2,234	2,378	2,703	2,670	2,556	2,633	2,457	2,435
Under pretrial order	788	913	847	917	1,004	1,237	1,205	1,333	1,417	1,422	1,464
Under decree	1,320	1,514	1,163	1,244	1,344	1,310	1,369	1,205	1,182	932	571
Under agreement or decree total	9,027	9,154	8,333	8,267	8,442	8,789	8,916	8,649	8,749	8,269	8,288
Non-prejudicial rate	42.92%	43.94%	49.39%	46.84%	44.02%	40.27%	41.18%	41.10%	40.20%	41.82%	46.07%
Memorandum rate	33.73%	29.55%	26.49%	27.02%	28.17%	30.75%	29.95%	29.55%	30.09%	29.71%	29.38%
Pretrial rate	8.73%	9.97%	10.16%	11.09%	11.89%	14.07%	13.52%	15.41%	16.20%	17.20%	17.66%
Decree rate	14.62%	16.54%	13.96%	15.05%	45 000/	44 000/	45.050/	10.000/	40 540/	44.070/	^ ^^^′)



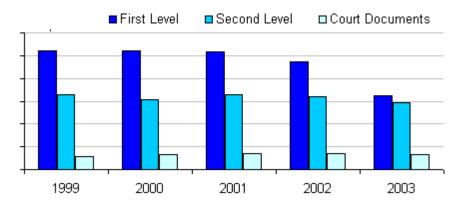
In 1998, The Division of Workers' Compensation began recording all injuries electronically, including non-indemnity. The dramatic increase in the number of files opened and files opened with no agreement between 1997 and 1998 reflects this change in policy.

The nonprejudicial agreement is used most often. At a peak in 1995, 49% of all files with an agreement or decree were paid under a nonprejudicial agreement. The memorandum is the next most frequently used at overall rate of about 30%.

The rate of files under pretrial order has increased steadily since 1993. The rate of files under a decree is expected to increase over time for 2002 and 2003 as pending litigation is resolved.

First Reports and Filings Received Per Calendar Year

Filings Received	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
First reports	11,300	11,033	10,809	10,142	10,697	31,317	32,787	32,640	32,893	30,811	30,448
Report of no indemnity											
benefit	3,433	3,365	3,465	3,010	2,922	18,094	19,532	19,492	18,783	16,675	1,935
First Level Report Total	14,733	14,398	14,274	13,152	13,619	49,411	52,319	52,132	51,676	47,486	32,383
Nonprejudicial agreements	8,664	8,198	8,058	8,096	8,144	7,676	7,983	7,605	7,693	7,211	7,552
Memorandums of agreement	4,653	3,634	3,297	3,274	3,503	3,915	3,780	3,609	3,962	3,591	3,359
Mutual agreements	1,470	1,923	2,365	2,699	2,756	2,998	2,823	2,652	2,905	3,130	1,905
Interim Payment Reports	3,756	2,720	2,545	3,034	2,435	2,322	3,333	2,853	3,016	3,056	2,571
Specific Injury Report	1,338	1,639	1,964	2,038	1,915	2,021	1,996	1,865	2,115	2,250	2,158
Final Payment Reports	5,969	4,681	4,277	4,573	4,545	4,708	4,440	4,226	4,809	4,905	3,976
Terminations of benefits	6,140	6,003	5,691	5,682	5,639	5,058	5,526	5,212	5,295	4,989	5,243
Suspension agreements	3,392	2,776	2,471	2,452	2,624	2,964	2,811	2,640	2,886	2,652	2,386
Wage transcripts	333	62	38	69	43	19	16	13	28	23	22
Second Level Report Total	35,715	31,636	30,706	31,917	31,604	31,681	32,708	30,675	32,709	31,807	29,172
Pretrial Orders	3,275	3,555	3,772	3,810	4,020	3,884	4,009	4,486	4,974	4,924	4,701
Decrees	1,857	1,876	1,991	2,108	2,152	2,217	1,809	1,992	1,906	2,150	1,833
Court Documents Total	5,132	5,431	5,763	5,918	6,172	6,101	5,818	6,478	6,880	7,074	6,534



First Reports and Reports of non-payment of indemnity benefits are first level reports. Before 1998, non-indemnity first reports were recorded manually and are not included in these figures. In the second half of 2002, the Report of Non-Payment of Indemnity form was discontinued.

Second level reports include agreements to compensate, documents to end compensation, and reports of payments. From 1994 through 2002, the number of second level reports has ranged between 30,000 and 33,000 per year, but the number decreased to 29,172 in 2003. The number of Final payment reports dropped substantially in 2003.

Starting in 1998, all first reports including non-indemnity were recorded.

Workers Compensation Administrative Fund

Administrative Fund Information

The Workers' Compensation Administrative Fund, formerly the Second Injury Fund, collects income each year through assessments on insurance companies, self-insured employers, group self-insured employers and municipalities covered under the Workers' Compensation Act. The Fund supports these agencies:

Dr. John E. Donley Rehabilitation Center

Education Unit

Workers' Compensation Court System

Medical Advisory Board

Workers' Compensation Fraud and Compliance Unit

Department of Labor & Training's Workers' Compensation Unit

Workers' Compensation Advisory Council.

The Administrative Fund is also responsible to reimburse contributors to the fund for claims that fall within these sections of the Workers' Compensation Act:

<u>Pre-1975 Injuries</u>. RIGL § 28-37-9 provides for the reimbursement of compensation and medical payments for claims with injury dates before September, 1974. These claims were subject to a cap on benefits. If a totally disabled employee reached the cap, the insurer would be reimbursed for compensation benefits until the end of total disability or death.

Aggravation. RIGL § 28-27-4 provided for reimbursement of benefits for injured employees with a pre-existing work-related disability. This section was repealed on July 3, 1998. Injuries accepted prior to repeal are still eligible for reimbursement, but no new claims are accepted.

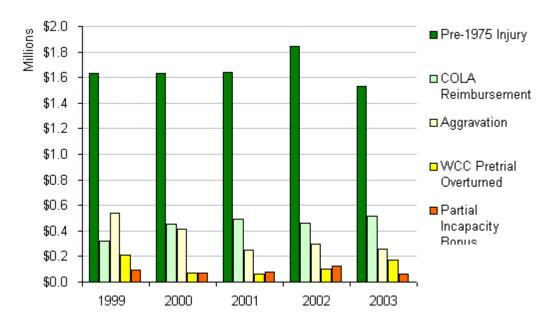
<u>WCC Pretrial Overturned</u>. RIGL § 28-35-20 (f) provides for reimbursement of payments made pursuant to an order of the Workers' Compensation Court that is later overturned or amended.

<u>DWC Hearing Overturned</u>. RIGL § 28-33-1.1 (i) (1) (B) provides for the reimbursement of payments made pursuant to a preliminary determination issued by the Workers' Compensation Hearing unit that was later overturned or amended. This section was repealed.

<u>COLA Reimbursement</u>. RIGL § 28-37-1 (b) (8) provides for reimbursement of insurer payment made for cost-of-living adjustments pursuant to RIGL § 28-33-17. The application period for this type of reimbursement has expired. Partial Incapacity Bonus. RIGL § 28-37-4 (i) provides for direct payment to injured workers who return to employment at wages less than those received before the work-related injury. Payment from the Fund makes up the difference between the pre-injury wages and the total of current wages plus compensation. This law was repealed in 1992, but by Supreme Court order the Fund is obligated to make payments to employees accepted prior to the repeal.

Workers' Compensation Administrative Fund Total Expenditures

Amount Paid	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Pre-1975 Injury	\$1,994,084	\$2,269,566	\$2,080,103	\$1,629,944	\$1,631,669	\$1,640,010	\$1,841,880	\$1,529,564
COLA Reimbursement	\$2,110,936	\$674,244	\$296,584	\$319,364	\$452,229	\$493,602	\$458,963	\$513,839
Aggravation WCC Pretrial	\$799,983	\$1,046,448	\$784,945	\$538,650	\$415,393	\$250,501	\$296,247	\$254,262
Overturned	\$246,230	\$82,828	\$284,415	\$207,297	\$70,138	\$62,587	\$105,047	\$174,314
Partial Incapacity Bonus DWC Hearing	\$353,075	\$180,801	\$116,964	\$89,924	\$69,639	\$80,713	\$126,103	\$63,038
Overturned	\$106,845	\$89,992	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$5,611,152	\$4,343,878	\$3,563,011	\$2,785,179	\$2,639,067	\$2,527,413	\$2,828,241	\$2,535,017

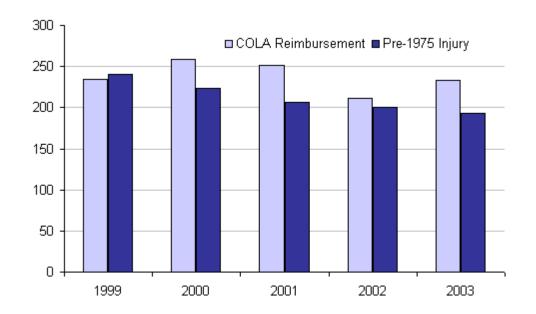


1996 stands out as the year with highest combined expenditures with COLA reimbursement making up a large part. The September, 1990 reform granted COLA increases starting May 10, 1991 for all total incapacity injuries, regardless of injury date. Because the cost of COLA had not been anticipated in the premiums for older claims, insurers were allowed reimbursement of the COLA costs effective late in 1995. The high cost for COLA in 1996 is the combined cost of COLA from 1991 through 1996.

The largest component of the fund expenditures is for pre-1975 injuries. Before 1975, there was a limit on the amount of compensation an injured worker could collect, even if permanently totally disabled. Legislation allowed these disabled workers to continue receiving payment beyond the cap, and the costs are reimbursed from the fund. Because no new injuries are eligible for this reimbursement, the amount of the expenditure is expected to decrease as this population declines over time.

Workers' Compensation Administrative Fund Claims Paid

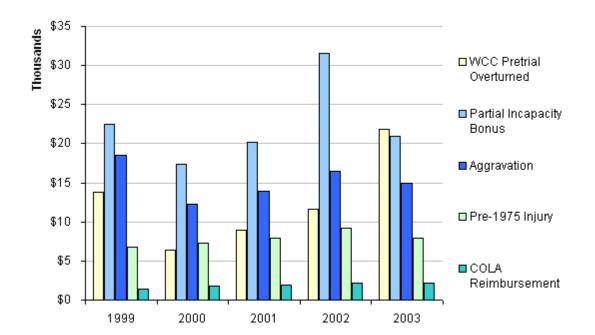
Number of Claims Paid	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
COLA Reimbursement	0	203	996	319	169	234	259	251	211	233
Pre-1975 Injury	343	326	285	291	271	241	223	207	200	193
Aggravation	20	36	36	40	38	29	34	18	18	17
WCC Pretrial Overturned	35	21	24	10	26	15	11	7	9	8
Partial Incapacity Bonus	11	13	11	9	7	4	4	4	4	3
DWC Hearing Overturned	8	6	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	417	605	1357	671	511	523	531	487	442	454



The pre-1975 injuries and claims for COLA Reimbursement account for the largest number of claims paid each year. As the pre-1975 injured workers age and die, the number of those claims paid is decreasing.

Average Workers' Compensation Administrative Fund Expenditures

Average Paid per Claim	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
WCC Pretrial Overturned	\$6,549	\$6,125	\$10,260	\$8,283	\$10,939	\$13,820	\$6,376	\$8,941	\$11,672	\$21,789
Partial Incapacity Bonus	\$7,775	\$4,323	\$32,098	\$20,089	\$16,709	\$22,481	\$17,410	\$20,178	\$31,526	\$21,013
Aggravation	\$17,933	\$32,091	\$22,222	\$26,161	\$20,656	\$18,574	\$12,217	\$13,917	\$16,458	\$14,957
Pre-1975 Injury	\$7,020	\$7,565	\$6,997	\$7,799	\$7,676	\$6,763	\$7,317	\$7,923	\$9,209	\$7,925
COLA Reimbursement DWC Hearing	\$0	\$1,330	\$2,119	\$2,114	\$1,755	\$1,365	\$1,746	\$1,967	\$2,175	\$2,205
Overturned	\$18,088	\$15,895	\$21,369	\$44,996	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$7,736	\$6,895	\$4,135	\$6,474	\$6,973	\$5,325	\$4,970	\$5,190	\$6,399	\$5,584



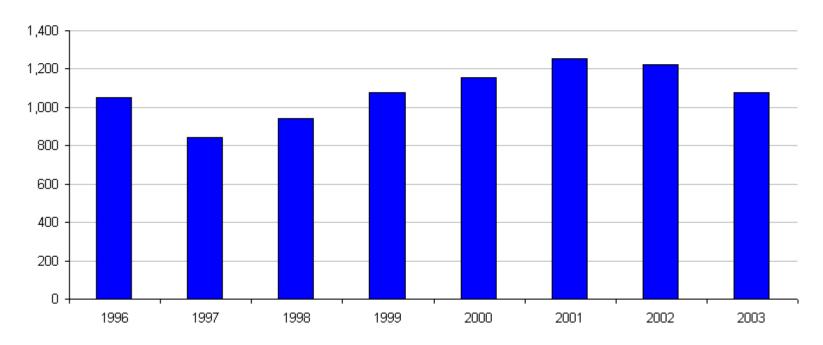
The average cost per claim gives a different perspective on the WCAF expenditures. While COLA makes up a large part of the number of claims and total dollar expenditures, the average payment per claim is quite small in comparison. Similarly, the average payment per pre-1975 injury is relatively low.

There are few claims with WCC pretrial orders overturned and Partial Incapacity Bonus, but the average payment per claim is high. The average amount paid per claim where WCC pretrial orders were overturned climbed sharply in 2003.

Dr. John E. Donley Rehabilitation Admissions

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Number of Admissions	1,051	843	941	1,077	1,157	1,255	1,224	1,078

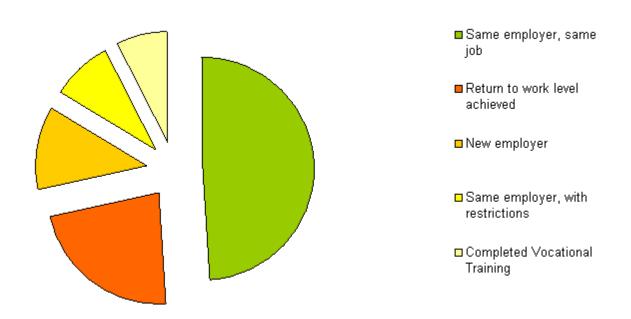
Number of Admissions



Dr. John E. Donley Rehabilitation Center Return to Work Discharges

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Return to work level was achieved	310	375	397	513	482	526
Same employer, same job	171	218	215	270	235	257
Return to work level achieved	72	76	84	131	148	118
New employer	40	47	55	66	61	65
Same employer, with restrictions	27	34	43	46	38	46
Completed Vocational Training						40

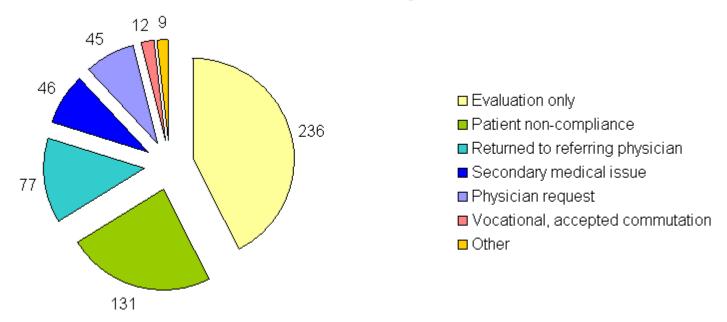
Return to Work Discharges in 2003



Dr. John E. Donley Rehabilitation Center Not Returned to Work Discharges

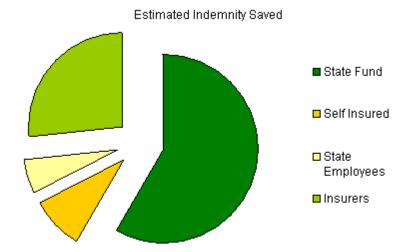
_	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Not Returned to Work	580	657	734	771	768	556
Evaluation only	255	294	251	281	335	236
Patient non-compliance	110	115	133	188	132	131
Returned to referring physician	81	74	121	141	112	77
Secondary medical issue	36	49	65	70	56	46
Physician request	27	27	51	46	45	45
Vocational, accepted commutation	0	0	0	9	15	12
Other	71	98	113	36	73	9

Not Returned to Work Discharges in 2003



Dr. John E. Donley Center Estimated Indemnity Savings Report

Type of Insurer	Number of Injured Workers Returned to Work	Estimated Weeks of Indemnity Saved	Estimated Amount of Indemnity Saved
State Fund	157	40,004	\$19,142,363
Self Insured	26	6,192	\$2,962,780
State Employees	16	4,119	\$1,970,946
Insurers	76	18,461	\$8,834,328
Total	275	68,776	\$32,910,417

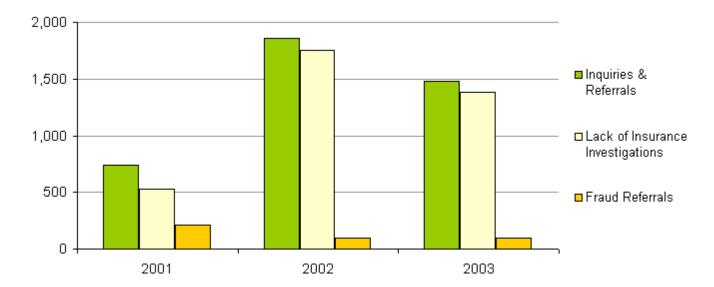


Indemnity savings is estimated for patients discharged to return to work from Donley Center in 2003 where the time between the injury and date of admission is over 3 months. The length of time between the date of discharge and the anticipated date of the 312 week gate is the estimated weeks of indemnity saved. The dollar amount of indemnity is calculated using a compensation rate of 75% of the average weekly wage for covered unemployment insured employers in calendar year 2002.

Fraud and Compliance Unit Referrals, Inquiries and Filings

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Independent Contractor Forms Filed	NA	7,754	6,756	6,334
Inquiries/Referrals	505	737	1,858	1,483
Fraud Referrals	*	210	101	97
Opened for investigation	*	140	46	29
From Insurers	17	31	30	19
Referred to AG	7	8	12	9
Lack of Insurance Investigations	532	527	1,757	1,386

Investigations and Referrals



^{*} Fraud and Compliance were not separated in 2000.

Fraud and Compliance Unit Penalties and Fees

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Failure to file first report of injury Failure to report policy	\$3,000	\$13,000	\$23,270	\$8,000
information	\$6,250	\$3,250	\$13,800	\$11,250
Waiver Filing Fees Lack of WC insurance	\$745	\$4,205	\$9,515	\$18,045
coverage	\$44,439	\$43,955	\$87,514	\$286,872

Penalties levied for lack of insurance coverage increased substantially in 2003. Penalties for failure to report policy information remained high at \$11,250. Penalties for failure to file a first report of injury have leveled off at \$8,000 as education and enforcement efforts succeed.

Penalties and Fees

